A CHRISTIAN NEWSLETTER ON INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

Department of International Affairs
National Council of the Churches of Christ in the U.S.A.
297 Fourth Avenue - New York 10, N.Y.

Volume 4, Number 9 $1.00 per year November, 1956

CONCERNS OF CHURCHES IN U.S. EXPRESSED ON CURRENT CRISES IN MIDDLE EAST AND HUNGARY

Events in the Middle East and in Eastern Europe have been closely followed with deep concern by officers and staff of the National Council of Churches particularly the President and General Administration, and those in the Department of International Affairs, the Department of Christian World Relations of United Church Women, the Youth Department along with the United Christian Youth Movement, Church World Service, and the Division of Foreign Missions. They have been analyzing the meanings of these crises for the churches and seeking to take the most appropriate action. In its Fall Meeting, November 13, the Department of International Affairs gave consideration to these crises, furnishing further background for the work of the churches in relation to these events.

The concerns of the churches for the relief of human suffering have been and are being expressed in a number of ways, with Church World Service, in cooperation with the World Council of Churches, taking the lead in manifold ministries described elsewhere. (page 7)

The concerns of the churches for our foreign policy have included the following lines of action for our government: To continue to work more intensively through the United Nations; to continue the policy of making every possible effort to resolve conflicts by honorable negotiation; to seek just and durable settlements by new initiative on the part of the United States in cooperation with other nations. As these are further applications of policies already adopted by the National Council of Churches, no new pronouncements were issued, but these positions were newly applied and interpreted to the government, to the churches and to the general public. Informal conversations have been and are being held with officers in the United Nations and in the U.S. government Administration and State Department; correspondence has been carried on and continues with the Administration, the State Department, the U.S. Mission to the UN, and with key leaders in the Senate and the House.

In his responsibilities as President of the National Council, Dr. Eugene Carson Blake issued a Call to Prayer for Sunday, November 4; cabled a message on November 7 to the churches in the Soviet Union on the crises in Hungary and in the Middle East, to which a reply was cabled by Metropolitan Nicolai; and on November 15 Dr. Blake telegraphed a message to President Eisenhower. As the content of such statements will be of value to many readers of the Newsletter, the texts are given later in this article.

In an appeal to Christian young people, the Youth Department of the National Council of Churches and the leaders of the United Christian Youth Movement urged the giving of material resources and the offering of prayers individually and in groups. (Cont. on page 2.)

IN THIS ISSUE

1-3 - Concerns of U.S. Churches Expressed on Crises in Mid-East and Hungary
3-4 - Cables by Dr. Blake and by Metropolitan Nicolai, Russian Orthodox Church
5-6 - CCIA, WCC, British Council, French Protestant Federation Act in Crises
7 - Church World Service Ministers in Crisis Areas; Lists URGENT NEEDS!
8 - Asian Policy Discussed in American Assembly: Address by Ernest Gross

CONCERNS OF CHURCHES IN U.S. EXPRESSED ON CURRENT CRISES IN MID-EAST AND HUNGARY (Cont.)

Another action of the National Council was carried out through the services of Dr. O. Frederick Nolde, while he was on a mission fulfilling responsibilities as Director of the Commission of the Churches on International Affairs. On a few hours' notice, he flew from New York, November 1, to headquarters in Geneva, Switzerland, and from there to London and Paris to confer with leading churchmen, in company with other officers of CCIA. Before leaving, he was authorized by President Blake to convey to colleagues in London and Paris, in the midst of strained relations among allied nations, the greetings of the National Council of Churches of Christ in the U.S.A., their desire to promote mutual understanding in this critical situation, and to seek ways in which the churches could aid in achieving a just solution. In reply, church leaders in Britain and France expressed their appreciation, their feelings of Christian fellowship and their readiness to exchange views on problems of common concern.

TEXT OF CALL TO PRAYER ISSUED BY PRESIDENT BLAKE ON NOVEMBER 2

"As President of the National Council of Churches I issue this special call to prayer by the ministers and people of the Protestant and Orthodox churches which make up the Council and by all others who will join with us in special intercession on Sunday, November 4, for peace with justice and freedom.

"Let all of us who pray, humbly recognize that each of us and our government must share a sense of responsibility in and for the crisis in the world of nations. Let us confess honestly our sins of omission and commission.

"Let us ask in penitence for the forgiveness of God that His saving health may be upon us and all nations.

"Let us pray for others, for the people in Egypt, Israel, Hungary and all who are now suggering in the midst of turmoil, conflict, agony of body, mind and spirit.

"Let us pray for the guidance of Almighty God for the political leaders in the life of our own and of all nations.

"Let us pray especially for those who are the representatives of the powers, small and great now consulting in the General Assembly of the United Nations.

"Let us pray for the furtherance of works of mercy as through Church World Service and the World Council of Churches and all who seek to respond in Christian love to the needs of suffering humanity.

"Let us pray for nations now hostile, estranged or divided in council that attitudes and actions may bring increasing understanding and harmony among all nations.

"Let us pray for our country in its international responsibilities that its influence in concert with other nations may be effective in helping to establish peace, freedom and justice for all peoples of the earth."

UNITED CHRISTIAN YOUTH MOVEMENT AND YOUTH DEPARTMENT URGE YOUTH PRAYER AND ACTION

The UCYM Newsletter of November 2, sent to key youth leaders, contained: 1. A statement on the Current Situation (in Eastern Europe and in the Middle East), 2. A Call to Prayer on the Part of Christian Youth, 3. Copies of CWS Press Releases. In the Statement they expressed their sympathy with the citizens of all lands struggling to be free, especially the peoples of Hungary, and urged appropriate action of U.S. youth "by assisting in mobilizing and offering all such material resources as may be necessary to alleviate their emergency need. We call on church youth groups across the land to coordinate their efforts through the channels of Church World Service which are already operative in transmitting food, clothing and other emergency supplies to Eastern Europe."

In their Call to Prayer, Charles H. Boyles, Chairman of UCYM said: "We call the youth of the churches of this nation to prayer for the suffering peoples of Hungary and the Near East;...that divine guidance might accompany the leaders of the U.N., our own nation, and the nations in conflict; that a just peace might be won for Hungary and the nations of the Near East; and that the sorrows of the people might be comforted and alleviated. Let these be the prayers of youth; individually, in small groups, and in public gatherings across the nation."

TELEGRAM SENT TO PRESIDENT EISENHOWER BY PRESIDENT BLAKE, NOVEMBER 15

"AS PRESIDENT OF THE NATIONAL COUNCIL OF CHURCHES I ASSURE YOU THAT WE STRONGLY SUPPORT THE POLICY OF THE UNITED STATES AS YOU HAVE DEFINED IT TO ACT THROUGH THE UNITED NATIONS IN THE CRISES IN THE MIDDLE EAST AND IN HUNGARY.

"WE WELCOME THE PROMPT ACTION BY THE UNITED NATIONS TO STOP ARMED CONFLICT IN THE MIDDLE EAST AND TO EFFECT WITHDRAWAL OF HOSTILE FORCES, MEANWHILE ESTABLISHING A UNITED NATIONS PEACE UNIT IN THE AREA. WHEN THE MILITARY SITUATION IS STABILIZED WE URGE VIGOROUS CONCERTED EFFORTS BY THE UNITED STATES ALONG WITH OTHER COUNTRIES THROUGH THE UNITED NATIONS TOWARD JUST AND DURABLE POLITICAL SETTLEMENTS AND ALSO CONSTRUCTIVE WORKING ARRANGEMENTS, AND, WHERE POSSIBLE, LONG-TERM SOLUTIONS FOR ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL NEEDS OF THE WHOLE REGION.

"WE WELCOME THE UNITED NATIONS ACTION CONDEMNING THE USE OF SOVIET MILITARY FORCES TO SUPPRESS THE EFFORTS OF THE HUNGARIAN PEOPLE TO REASSERT THEIR RIGHTS, DEMANDING THE WITHDRAWAL OF SOVIET FORCES, ARRANGING FOR RELIEF MEASURES FOR THE PEOPLE IN HUNGARY AND FOR REFUGEES, AND REQUESTING THE ADMISSION OF UNITED NATIONS OBSERVERS. THE MORAL FORCE OF WORLD OPINION SHOULD BE HEEDED IN EVERY RESPONSIBLE ACTION WHICH MAY HELP TO MAKE FOR MORE JUSTICE, FREEDOM AND PEACE IN HUNGARY AND OTHER OPPRESSED AREAS. THE CHURCHES ARE ACTING THROUGH THEIR RELIEF AND REFUGEE AGENCIES TO BRING FOOD, CLOTHING, MEDICINE AND SPIRITUAL HELP TO MEET HUMAN SUFFERING. WE ARE ALSO WORKING THROUGH CHURCH WORLD SERVICE IN COOPERATION WITH THE WORLD COUNCIL OF CHURCHES TO RESPOND TO YOUR ACTION FOR RESETTLEMENT OF HUNGARIAN REFUGEES.

"THE CHURCHES HAVE STEADFASTLY SUPPORTED AND SOUGHT TO STRENGTHEN THE UNITED NATIONS. THEY HAVE ALSO URGED OUR GOVERNMENT TO MAKE FULLER USE OF THE FACILITIES AND POTENTIALITIES OF THE UNITED NATIONS. WE NOW WELCOME THE INCREASING APPRECIATION OF THE UNITED NATIONS IN OUR COUNTRY AND ABROAD FOR ITS EFFECTIVE USE OF MORAL POWER AS AN OPERATING FORCE IN A WORLD WHERE WAR HAS BECOME AN ANACHRONISM.

"WE REJOICE IN THE PRACTICAL ACHIEVEMENT OF THE UNITING FOR PEACE RESOLUTION BEING APPLIED AGAINST GREAT POWERS AS WELL AS SMALL. OUT OF THE PRESENT TIME OF TESTING WE HOPE THERE MAY COME FURTHER DEVELOPMENT OF THE POTENTIALITIES OF THE UNITED NATIONS IN SUCH WAYS AS THE FURTHER USE OF PEACE OBSERVATION TEAMS, THE POSSIBLE ESTABLISHMENT OF A PERMANENT UNITED NATIONS SECURITY FORCE AS PROVIDED FOR IN THE CHARTER, AND LONG RANGE ACTION FOR COLLECTIVE SECURITY AND PEACEFUL CHANGE. WE WELCOME SUPPORT IN THE UNITED STATES FOR THE INCREASING EXERCISE OF THE RESPONSIBILITY WHICH INHERES IN THE OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY GENERAL. WE SEE FURTHER POSSIBILITIES FOR A STRONGER AND MORE EFFECTIVE UNITED NATIONS IN THE PARTICIPATION OF MANY NEW MEMBER NATIONS IN ITS WORK.

"WE SHARE IN COMPASSION FOR ALL WHO SUFFER IN BODY AND SPIRIT IN THE TRAGIC EXPERIENCES OF THESE DAYS, INCLUDING THE MANY PEOPLE IN OUR OWN COUNTRY WHO ARE ESPECIALLY TORN BY ANGUISH. WE ARE ENCOURAGING LARGER PARTICIPATION BY THE PEOPLE OF OUR CHURCHES IN WORKS OF MERCY.

"WE CALL FOR PRAYERS TO ALMIGHTY GOD FOR YOU AND ALL IN POSITIONS OF AUTHORITY IN OUR OWN AND OTHER LANDS AND IN THE UNITED NATIONS, THAT THE PEOPLES OF THE WORLD MAY BE LED TOWARD THOSE THINGS WHICH MAKE FOR PEACE WITH JUSTICE AND FREEDOM."

CABLES EXCHANGED BY PRESIDENT BLAKE AND METROPOLITAN NICOLAI OF RUSSIAN ORTHODOX CHURCH

As President of the National Council of the Churches of Christ in the U.S.A., Dr. Blake dispatched a cable on November 7 to Metropolitan Nicolai of the Russian Orthodox Church in Moscow; a reply was received by cable. These church leaders served as respective heads of the deputations of churchmen from the two countries who exchanged visits to Russia (to p.4)

CABLES EXCHANGED BY DR. BLAKE AND METROPOLITAN NICOLAI OF RUSSIAN ORTHODOX CHURCH (Cont.)

in March and to the United States in June. The texts follow:

TO METROPOLITAN NICOLAI: "RECALLING WITH THANKSGIVING OUR FELLOWSHIP IN MARCH AND IN JUNE AND REAFFIRMING OUR COMMON CONCERN FOR THE CAUSE OF PEACE IN THE WHOLE WORLD AND OUR DESIRE FOR THE FREEDOM OF THE CHURCHES TO FULFILL THEIR MISSION, I SEND YOU BROTHERLY GREETINGS IN CHRIST FROM THE NATIONAL COUNCIL OF CHURCHES IN THIS CRITICAL HOUR.

"WE ARE SEEKING THROUGH OUR PRAYERS AND MATERIAL AID TO HELP THOSE WHO HAVE SUFFERED FROM THE CONFLICT IN HUNGARY, THE MIDDLE EAST AND OTHER AREAS OF THE PRESENT DISORDER. WE HOPE YOU ARE JOINING US IN SUPPLICATION TO ALMIGHTY GOD FOR ALL WHO SUFFER AND THAT YOU WILL JOIN US IN SENDING MATERIAL AID TO THE SEVERAL VICTIMS OF THE PRESENT CONFLICTS. IN ACCORDANCE WITH YOUR EXPRESSED DEVOTION TO PEACE AND JUSTICE, WE HOPE THE CHURCHES IN THE U.S.S.R. WILL WORK ALSO FOR THE AVOIDANCE OF FURTHER BLOODSHED AND OPPRESSION AND THAT YOU WILL REPRESENT TO THE AUTHORITIES OF YOUR NATION YOUR CHRISTIAN CONCERN THAT THE HUNGARIAN PEOPLE BE GIVEN FREEDOM TO DETERMINE THEIR DESTINY AS A NATION. WE FURTHER ASK THAT YOU JOIN IN OUR PRAYERS THAT THE WORLD WILL FIND SURE WAYS TO A JUST SETTLEMENT IN THE MIDDLE EAST, WITHOUT FURTHER VIOLENCE AND BLOODSHED. WE INVITE YOU TO JOIN US IN REAFFIRMING BY WORD AND DEED OUR COMMON DECLARATION THAT FAITH, FREEDOM AND JUSTICE ARE THE MOST ESSENTIAL PREREQUISITES FOR DURABLE PEACE."

Metropolitan Nicolai replied indicating attitudes and activities of Russian churches in current crises:

TO PRESIDENT BLAKE: "I HAVE RECEIVED YOUR TELEGRAM. I REJOICE AT THIS NEW MANIFESTATION OF OUR COMMUNION IN CHRIST. THE RUSSIAN ORTHODOX CHURCH HAS ALREADY EXPRESSED ITSELF ARDENTLY THROUGH OUR PRESS FOR CESSATION OF AGGRESSION IN EGYPT. THE OTHER CHURCHES OF OUR COUNTRY ARE IN SOLIDARITY WITH US IN THIS. WITH ALL OUR HEARTS WE JOIN OUR PRAYERS TO YOURS THAT THE WORLD MAY FIND A JUST SOLUTION OF PROBLEMS IN THE MIDDLE EAST WITHOUT FURTHER VIOLENCE OR BLOODSHED. WE FULLY SHARE YOUR FAITH THAT ALL MISUNDERSTANDING AND DISPUTES AMONG THE NATIONS WILL HAVE A PEACEFUL OUTCOME AND WE JOIN WITH YOUR WORK ON THIS (MATTER). OUR GOVERNMENT IS GIVING MATERIAL AID TO THOSE WHO SUFFER IN HUNGARY. IN THIS OUR CHURCHES ARE PARTICIPATING. WE SHALL DEVOTEDLY AND UNCEASINGLY LABOR FOR PEACE AS THE FINAL GOAL OF THE KINGDOM OF GOD ON EARTH. WE ARE STILL LIVING IN OUR COMMON DECISION (TAKEN WITH YOU) TO ACHIEVE PEACE ON EARTH. IN THIS MAY THE ALMIGHTY GOD HELP YOU AND US. ACCEPT FROM US OUR BROTHERLY GREETING IN CHRIST."

Both President Blake and Metropolitan Nicolai commented on the significance of the current exchange. Dr. Blake said it was the first between American and Russian churches in an international crisis since the Communists came to power 40 years ago. Metropolitan Nicolai said "I rejoice at this new manifestation of our communion in Christ."

Dr. Blake observed that this exchange was made possible by the establishment of communication achieved in the two-way visit of deputations of the churches in the Soviet Union and the United States this year, initiated by the National Council.

"Out of our concern for faith, freedom and justice," he added, "we lament the omission of any statement concerning the terror that has struck the freedom-loving people of Hungary.

"It comes as no surprise that areas of disagreement disclosed in the formal conversations between churchmen of these two countries still exist. The hopeful sign is that it is now possible, as it was not a year ago, for the churches of the two countries to speak to one another. In the continuing efforts for peace this may prove to be even more advantageous in the future than now."

CCIA, WCC, BRITISH COUNCIL OF CHURCHES, FRENCH PROTESTANT FEDERATION ACT IN CRISES

Valuable services are being rendered by the CCIA to national councils of churches, as in the United States, Britain and France, through information and guidance in the current crises, in addition to its other important operations. Through staff members, Dr. O. Frederick Nolde, Director, and Dr. Richard M. Fagley, Executive Secretary, through Sir Kenneth Grubb, Chairman, and through its commissioners in several countries, the CCIA has brought stimulation and coordination of actions during recent weeks. These and other staff members of CCIA have been in personal contact with leaders in the United Nations and in the governments of the U.S.A., U.K. and France at critical moments in the present crises. Their reports to the national councils have been most illuminating and helpful on the attitudes and actions of church leaders in the various countries as well as in analyses of the changing international situation.

A Statement on the Middle East Crisis was issued on November 1 by leaders of the World Council of Churches, Franklin Clark Fry, Ernest Payne, and Visser 't Hooft:

"The chairman and the vice-chairman of the Central Committee and the general secretary of the World Council of Churches request all member churches of the World Council in this grave situation in the Middle East to remember what the churches said together about international order and most recently, at the Second Assembly of the World Council of Churches at Evanston. We direct particular attention to the passages in the Evanston Report where the churches state that 'No nation in an international dispute has the right to be sole judge in its own cause'...where they call upon the nations to 'pledge that they will refrain from the threat or the use of force against the territorial integrity of any state,' and where they affirm that 'any measures to deter or combat aggression should conform to the requirements of the United Nations Charter.' Finally, we ask the churches to pray to Almighty God that He will guide the government and the peoples in the ways of justice and peace."

A Statement on the Hungarian Situation was sent to Member Churches of the World Council and to the Moscow Patriarchate from the Geneva Headquarters on 5 November:

"Christians throughout the world are profoundly shocked and sorrow stricken at the tragic reversal suffered by the Hungarian people, who had clearly asserted their desire for freedom and independence in national and church life. The Chairman and Vice Chairman of the Central Committee and the General Secretary of the World Council of Churches call to the attention of member churches the immediate relevance of certain statements in the appeal to churches and governments adopted by the Evanston Assembly. They refer particularly to the claim that fear and suspicion cannot be replaced by respect and trust unless powerful nations remove the yoke which now prevents other nations and peoples from freely determining their own government and form of society. We urge the member churches to continue to seek this objective. As also stated at Evanston, Christians must stand together with all who in the struggle for freedom suffer pain and trial. Our unity in this fellowship will remain unbroken whatever happens, and will also find expression in prayer for the people of Hungary in their hour of trial and for the churches in their witness to our crucified and Risen Lord."

The head of the Church of England, the Archbishop of Canterbury, Dr. Geoffrey Fisher, in the House of Lords, November 1, questioned Britain's military action in Egypt. He said that Christian opinion in Britain was "terribly uneasy and unhappy" over that decision. He suggested that "even those most convinced that the government has taken the right action would be wise to give heed not only to this uneasiness" among the British people "but to the hostile reactions which the government's action has received in all parts of the world.

"What I say I say with fear and trembling. The only question we as a responsible nation have to ask ourselves is -- are we doing the right thing by the highest and wisest standards that we as a nation know?

"We cannot ignore the fact that the President of the United States thinks we have made a grave error, that world opinion on the whole -- almost entirely -- is convinced we have made a grave error.

"We have to accept the fact that there is a strong case for saying that our action is a contravention of the spirit and letter of the United Nations charter."

The British Council of Churches voted statements in September, October and again on November 1 on the Suez crisis which were used as a basis for representation to government on November 3. A further statement was made on November 8.

The following statement was issued by the British Council of Churches on Saturday, November 3:

"On behalf of the British Council of Churches, the Archbishop of Canterbury (President), the Rev. Kenneth Slack (General Secretary) and Dr. Ernest Payne (Vice Chairman of the Central Committee, World Council of Churches) called on the Lord Chancellor (Lord Kilimair) this afternoon. The Lord Chancellor received them for the Prime Minister. They represented to him the deep concern of Christian opinion in this country regarding events in the Middle East, and urged that every attempt should be made to secure a general cease fire as speedily as possible."

At an emergency meeting of the Executive Committee of the British Council of Churches on November 8, it "strongly approved the action of the officers of the Council in calling upon all Christian people to pray earnestly about these events, and above all, to pray that the leaders of the nations may discern God's will and do it."

After full discussion, the committee passed unanimously the following resolutions:
"That the Executive Committee of the British Council of Churches:
1. Approves the action of the officers of the Council in obtaining an interview with Lord Chancellor (acting on behalf of the Prime Minister) and representing to him the deep concern of Christian opinion regarding events in the Middle East;
2. Reaffirms its grave disquiet that the Government of Great Britain, together with that of France, even though confronted by so many violations of the Charter of the United Nations, should themselves have taken unilateral military action;
3. Recognizes the past lack of authority and effectiveness of the United Nations as one of the principal factors in the present crisis, and appeals to all the Governments concerned to work earnestly and constantly for the securing and upholding of law and order between the nations;
4. Reminds the member-nations of the United Nations that the solution of the Middle East problem is inextricably linked with the problem of the Arab refugees, for whose human misery the Churches have all along shown a deep, practical concern."

The Council of the Protestant Federation of France on November 6, took the following action (unofficial translation) in the face of strong feelings in France, which on the whole favor the military action of the government in Egypt:

"The Council of the French Protestant Federation, meeting in extraordinary session on November 6th, 1956: Considers it most regrettable and painful that the Governments of France and Great Britain, confronted by so many violations of the United Nations Charter, should have considered it lawful to take unilateral action,

"Fears the psychological consequences of this decision when others seek to justify their actions,

"Deplores the lack of authority and effectiveness of the United Nations and hopes that the present crisis will obligue its members to remedy the weaknesses and uncertainties which have paralyzed its action.

"The Council reaffirms its conviction that order and justice are only possible when there is respect for international rights, and asks that hostilities should cease with the least possible delay and that the U.N.O., having at last an international force at its command, take charge of the re-establishment and maintenance of peace in the Middle East."

CHURCH WORLD SERVICE ACTS IN MINISTRIES OF MERCY IN CRISIS AREAS; LISTS URGENT NEEDS!

Around the clock, help has been given and is being increased to meet human needs in and around Hungary and in the Middle East by workers of Church World Service. In cooperation with the World Council of Churches, Protestants and Eastern Orthodox Christians have been laboring selflessly to alleviate human suffering and to bring hope for new life. Factually, the story is one of food, clothing, medicines, vitamins and, of special importance, personal counseling by understanding competent Christian workers in the field. Spiritually, it is a meaningful demonstration of the spirit of Jesus Christ who was concerned for food, drink and the other needs of "these, my brethren."

HUNGARY

Until the frontier was sealed on the evening of Friday, November 2, truckloads of CWS food, clothing and medical supplies were moved into Budapest daily from stocks already on hand in Vienna. The last such convoy of nine trucks arrived in Budapest on November 2, and returned safely the next day. In immediate response to an emergency call, CWS made available $5000 for the purchase of medicines and $5000 in Christian Rural Overseas Program (CROP) funds for food concentrates. On November 2, the first of several consignments of medical items including one million vitamins and 10,000 anti-biotics were flown in by Trans World Airlines, and 11 tons of blankets were shipped the following week by Pan American Airways, both air services being donated. Shipments of clothing on the high seas were diverted for this purpose from other programs. The latest task of World Council of Churches representatives, who have been on the job constantly, is to help care for over 80,000 refugees who have fled across the border from Hungary into Austria. Many of these are being interviewed for possible entry into the USA under the terms of a special quota of 5000 to be admitted to the USA as the result of a special executive order of President Eisenhower on November 8, and over 80 have now arrived in this country under CWS auspices.

THE MIDDLE EAST

Church World Service representatives in the Middle East have cabled word of their intention to stay on the job as long as possible caring for nearly a million refugees who have been there almost eight years. In the current emergency, $5000 additional has been sent for relief work among refugees in the Gaza Strip, and CROP has made available $5000 additional for purchase of foods in Egypt. The church representatives are alert to further services to be given in the midst of new problems and more suffering.

URGENTLY NEEDED: CLOTHING, BLANKETS

To meet continuing needs in the above areas, and to replenish stocks which have been diverted from the needy in other areas, one million pounds of good, used clothing are needed at once. Tons of blankets are also needed. Clothing and blankets, with 8 cents per pound to cover processing costs (if possible), should be sent to the nearest CWS Clothing Center:

New Windsor, Maryland
110 East 29th Street, New York, N.Y.
Nappanee, Indiana
4165 Duncan Avenue, St. Louis, Missouri
1010 Ninth Street, Modesto, California

URGENTLY NEEDED: MONEY

The "Share Our Surplus" appeal, currently centered around the Thanksgiving-Christmas season, will make possible continued programs in the crisis areas. In addition, funds are needed to pay for vitamins, medicines, and other relief goods which have already been shipped or which will be sent in the near future. Gifts designated for "Share Our Surplus" or for Hungarian or Middle Eastern relief should be sent through regular denominational channels or directly to Church World Service, 215 Fourth Avenue, New York City.

URGENTLY NEEDED: ASSURANCES

CWS hopes with the help of local churches to provide assurances for Protestant and Eastern Orthodox refugees who may come to this country, as well as local job and placement opportunities for equally needy cases who escaped previously and whose assurances are already in the pipe-line. For details write your denominational refugee offices or Church World Service, 215 Fourth Avenue, New York 3, N.Y.

ASIAN POLICY DISCUSSED IN AMERICAN ASSEMBLY: ADDRESS BY ERNEST A. GROSS

"The United States and the Far East" was the subject of the Tenth American Assembly at Arden House, November 15-18. Sixty chosen government officials, educators, and leaders in industry and labor shared in the discussions which form the basis for another of the signif icant reports in the series of American Assemblies.

A major address on "Illusions of Our Asian Policy," was delivered by the Honorable Ernest A. Gross, who was Assistant Secretary of State, and also served as Deputy Permanent Representative for the United States to the United Nations. He now practices law and is Chairman of the Department of International Affairs of the National Council. He recently returned from a trip around the world in which he talked with leading figures in government and in national councils of churches.

His address underscored the importance of Taiwan as "a repository of political and professional leadership of Free China." He declared that for a number of reasons, "we must secure the island of Taiwan against communist control, at whatever cost." Mr. Gross spoke of the necessity for "a continuous diplomatic channel open between the United States and Red China at all requisite levels, (which) would serve our national interest more effective than the sporadic, behind-the-barn type of negotiation which has been taking place." But, diplomatic recognition of Communist China, he said, at the present time would be "premature and unwise." As to the seating of Communist China in the United Nations, he said it would not now be "either appropriate or timely." Mr. Gross made a plea for "the dignity of discussing on its merits the complex problem of United States relations with Red China," and stated that such freedom has been impaired by some official utterances. Declaring that "there is no alternative to the United Nations," Mr. Gross, who himself resisted seating Re China over forty times in UN bodies, pointed out that we must not undermine the organizatio by rash statements in advance, when some day a majority of the General Assembly may vote to seat the Chinese Communist regime. In the meantime, honorable negotiations with them "coul heavily underscore our determination" that the Chinese Communists should "make the first move to bring themselves into compliance with the normal standards of international behavior." He said that "to recognize Red China or support its seating in the United Nations at the present time" might have the effect of confirming it in its present course, but "if we bring to bear the full force of our negotiating strength we might induce a modification of Red China's present policy." By open, direct negotiations we would not be at the mercy of third parties and we could gain more favorable opinion of other peoples in Asi

In speaking of Japan and Korea, Mr. Gross stressed communication to and relationships with people. He discussed "the illusion that we strengthen the coalition of freedom by insistent emphasis upon our military posture."

In relation to realities in Asia, concerning the United Nations, Mr. Gross said: "The United States should lead in efforts to reinvigorate the security guarantees of the United Nations Charter. The world organization can and must be revitalized as an effective political and economic instrument. This includes a forthright support for self-determination, resumed leadership in the field of human rights and a large increase in the United Nations technical assistance and economic programs."

This Newsletter is published 10 times per year, September-June, by the Department of International Affairs of the National Council of Churches; the Honorable Ernest A. Gross, Chairman; Dr. Kenneth L. Maxwell, Associate Executive Director, Editor of Newsletter; Louise Frank, Assistant to the Editor. Prepared by the staff to provide specialized information for education and action on international issues. Viewpoints expressed should be regarded as not necessarily the policy of the Department or of the National Council. It is designed for denominational and council secretaries; national, state and local committees; ministers, laymen, women, and youth who wish to keep up with the work of the churches in this field. Subscription: $1.00 per year.